(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Scarcity of newsprint to newspaper Industry

101. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that newspaper industry has lately been faced with a peculiar problem of newsbring scarcity especially in respect of indigenous newsprint;

(b) if so, the nature and extent of scarcity, indicating the requirement and availability for the current year; and

(c) the steps taken to make good the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) There is scarcity of indigenous newsprint in the country. As against the estimated demand of 6.00 lakh metric tonnes of standard newsprint in the country for the current year, the production of indigenous standard newsprint is estimated to be only 3.80 lakh metric tonnes. To meet the shortfall in supply, the newspapers are allowed to import the entitled quantities of newsprint in terms of the Newsprint Import policy notified by the Ministry of Commerce.

Entry of foreign media

102. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the resolution unanimously passed by the executive committee of the Indian Newspapers Society at Bangalore on 14th September, 1994, firmly opposing the entry of foreign newspaper publishers into India or holding by them or any other foreign resident of any shares in any company for the purpose of printing and/or publishing newspapers, magazines and other such publications in India or control of print media by them in this country in the any other manner; and

(b) if so, whether Government reviewed the Cabinet sub-Committee's proposal to allow minority equity participation of foreign mass media companies in Indian newspaper companies to publish newspapers under foreign or Indian names, in the light of the above resolution of INS; and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Govt. continues to be guided by the Cabinet Decision of 1955, which has neither been changed nor rescinded so far.

Setting up of LPT in Orissa

103. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Orissa regarding the installation of low power T.V. transmitters and for upgradation of T.V.